

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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# Communications Update: Ozone Mapping and Implementation Information Sources

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# Ozone Mapping and Real-Time Air Quality Data

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- **New ozone and PM air quality standards were based on new information related to health studies on the effect of these pollutants on individuals**
- **Historically, when an air quality episode occurred, the public were often not aware of the event until after it was over**
- **Real-Time data and Forecasting gives the public current air quality information in conjunction with specific health impacts and appropriate actions to avoid exposure**

# What is the Ozone Mapping Project?

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- A collaborative effort between EPA and State and Local Air Agencies to collect, quality assure, and transfer real-time air quality information to the public
- Initiated in 1997 in the Northeast US and expanded in 1998 to cover 21 States and the District of Columbia
- Supported by the Presidential Initiative known as EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) or "Community Right-to-Know"

# Providing the Maps to the Public

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## ■ INTERNET

- [www.epa.gov/airnow](http://www.epa.gov/airnow)

## ■ WEATHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Major effort in '98 with the 4 major Weather Service Providers to get the maps on TV
- Appears that 3 out of 4 are interested and will provide the maps to their stations in 1999

## What's Next (FY-99)

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- **Expansion of mapping program to other States**
  - **Adding 15 States in the Southeast, Southwest, and Western US**
- **Outreach**
  - **National Weather Service Providers**
    - ▶ **local television broadcasts**
  - **The Weather Channel**
- **National ozone mapping effort within 3-4 years**
- **Inclusion of other real-time pollutants**

# Web Addresses

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- [www.epa.gov/airnow](http://www.epa.gov/airnow)
  - real-time ozone maps and related information
- [ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/implement](http://ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/implement)
  - information related to EPA's implementation strategy and rules and guidance documents
- [www.nature.nps.gov/ard/parks/grsm/lookRockWeather.htm](http://www.nature.nps.gov/ard/parks/grsm/lookRockWeather.htm)
  - current visibility conditions at Great Smoky Mountains National Park